

even temperament, and in-depth experience make Marty one of the most valuable officers of the Senate, and I want to thank him and recognize him for that. In the Secretary's office, Marty is ably assisted by Sue Spatz and Nancy Iacomini.

Day-to-day management of the floor operation is in the capable and energetic hands of Lula Davis, the Assistant Secretary to the Minority. Lula's ability to juggle multiple tasks—from negotiations over bills that we seek to clear by unanimous consent, to advising Senators and staff on legislative strategy, to acting as informal fashion adviser to many of my colleagues—demonstrates her tireless dedication to making things work around here. Marty and Lula are joined by Democratic Floor Assistants, Gary Myrick and Paul Brown, who have done a wonderful job helping to move legislation and protect Senators' interests. I am profoundly grateful for their dedication, their vigilance and their intellect. They are all ably assisted by Alice Aughttry.

Our Democratic Cloakroom staff, Paul Cloutier, Brian Griffin, Brian Erwin and Tricia Engle also provide invaluable assistance in many aspects of our Senate life. Among other things, they field countless queries about what the Senate is doing and when votes will occur, including that age-old question, "Will there be any more roll call votes tonight?". They help us stay on schedule and where we are supposed to be, all the while keeping track of the flurry of legislation that moves through here, and keeping most of us entertained. I salute them for their hard work and good humor and thank them for their assistance.

It is no exaggeration to say that our ability to navigate the complexities of Senate rules and procedures would be impossible without the assistance of our Parliamentarians. Senate Parliamentarian Bob Dove, with the outstanding assistance of Senior Assistant Parliamentarian Alan Frumin, Assistant Parliamentarian Kevin Kayes, and Parliamentary Assistant Sally Goffinet, provides essential expertise and understanding of Senate procedure.

Our growing C-SPAN audience has no doubt become familiar with the commanding voice of Legislative Clerk Scott Bates and his assistant David Tinsley; Bill Clerk Kathie Alvarez has also become a notable presence. Kathie is assisted in her duties as Bill Clerk by Mary Anne Clarkson and John Burnham. Our legislative and bill clerks deserve the thanks and respect of all Senators for their keen attention to detail and their patient professionalism.

Journal Clerk William Lackey and his assistants Patrick Keating and Scott Sanborn; Enrolling Clerk Tom Lundregan and his assistant Charlene McDevitt; Executive Clerk David Marcos, 1st Assistant Executive Clerk, Michelle Haynes and assistants Ken Dean and Terry Sauvain; Daily Digest

Editor Thomas Pellikaan, Assistant Editor Linda Sebold, and Staff Assistant Kimberly Longworth, all have my gratitude for their long hours and hard work.

I also would like to thank and commend again our official Reporters of Debates for their hard work: Chief Reporter Ronald Kavulick and Coordinator of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Eileen Milton; Morning Business Editor Lee Brown and Assistant Editor John Merlino; Expert Transcribers Angela Gallacher, Alma Kristoffersen and Bernita Parker; and the Official Reporters of Debates: Jerald Linnell, Raleigh Milton, Joel Breitner, Mary Jane McCarthy, Paul Nelson, Katie-Jane Teel, and Patrick Renzi.

I also want to thank our Senate Doorkeepers, directed by Myron Fleming and Krista Beal for the friendly and helpful attitude they bring to their jobs, often in the face of long and uncertain hours. Without their assistance and that of all of our Senate support staff, our work simply could not get done.

Last, but certainly not least, Mr. President, I want to thank my own staff—in South Dakota and in Washington—and the staff of the Democratic Leadership Committees, whom I share with Senators REID, ROCKEFELLER, and KERRY. These bright, talented people are dedicated to the effort to serve the people of South Dakota and the Nation, as well as every Democratic Senator and their staffs. They do a tremendous job, and I owe each of them a debt of gratitude.

THANKS TO ERSKINE BOWLES

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, Erskine Bowles will soon leave his post as White House Chief of Staff. He will return to his beloved North Carolina. He returns to his family; his remarkable wife, Crandall, and his exceptional children, Sam, Annie and Bill. If you know Erskine Bowles, you know that his heart has never left them through all his time in Washington. His home and his family are the pride of his life.

But as Erskine prepares to leave his post, he has a right to feel deeply proud of all he has accomplished here, as well. In so much of the progress made during President Clinton's Administration, you see the steady hand and clear vision of Erskine Bowles.

He came to the Capital little known to most of us. He had no experience in the so-called "ways" of Washington. Yet before long, the President realized Erskine was the man for the toughest job in town.

The President's confidence in this choice has been soundly ratified. Erskine leaves here a true friend to every one of us in the Democratic Caucus. He has earned the respect and admiration of Senators on both sides of the aisle. Most importantly, he has put the interests of the country ahead of the problems and politics of public life. By giving of himself—his time and his tal-

ents—millions of American families are better off today than they would have been had Erskine never come to Washington.

Jobless men and women now support growing families. Those workers have higher wages. Those wages have helped fuel a roaring economy. Those families can afford to buy their own homes. Those parents can send their children to college. Those children can share in the promising future that Erskine Bowles helped build.

Mr. President, earlier today, we passed a massive budget bill. Some have found fault with that bill in both substance and process. Some of that criticism is justified. But, I, for one, am relieved that during this unfortunate process, the country had Erskine Bowles negotiating the substance. Due in large part to Erskine Bowles, there will be 100,000 new, qualified teachers helping our children get the education they deserve.

There is another important provision in the bill worth noting. For tucked in that \$500 billion package, there is funding for the operations of the White House. And from the money dedicated to the salaries of the White House staff, Erskine Bowles takes one dollar a year.

So as we send that bill to the President for his signature, I will take pride in its support for 100,000 teachers; in its protections for our environment; and for the emergency relief it will bring to our farm families.

I will also support it for what it represents: Erskine Bowles' salary—probably the smartest single dollar this government has ever spent.

On behalf of all my colleagues, we honor the service of Erskine Bowles, and wish him and his family the very best in the good days that lie ahead.

TRIBUTE TO CHAIRMAN XAVIER BECERRA

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, as we bring our legislative session to an end, it is appropriate that we pay tribute to an American leader, the outgoing Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus for the 105th Congress, and my friend, XAVIER BECERRA.

Our Nation is fortunate to have an actively engaged Congressional Hispanic Caucus to ensure that more Americans have the opportunity to enjoy the rewards and responsibilities of American citizenship. Their efforts have succeeded in increasing educational opportunities for Hispanic Americans, promoting fairness in our judicial system, and protecting political participation vital to our democracy. Millions of people have benefited from effective leadership provided by the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, and in particular, by Mr. BECERRA.

XAVIER BECERRA was first elected to represent the 30th District of California in November 1992. In 1997, Representative Becerra was elected to serve as Chairman of the Congressional

Hispanic Caucus. Under his chairmanship, educational opportunities for Hispanic Americans have grown considerably: Hispanic Serving Institutions have received record-level funding, bilingual education programs once threatened have been strengthened, nearly \$500 million has been allocated for the President's Latino Education Plan, and equal access to technology for students in rural and urban centers has been enhanced through the e-rate program.

Chairman BECERRA has demonstrated great leadership and distinguished himself as powerful legislative voice in pushing for a positive agenda that includes expanding health care, reducing the naturalization backlog at the INS, promoting fairness in our judicial system, ensuring a fair and accurate census, and protecting voting rights.

It has been a privilege for the Democratic Caucus to work with Chairman Becerra and his fellow members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. I am going to miss the leadership of Chairman XAVIER BECERRA, but I look forward to his continuing friendship and to developing a strong working relationship with the next Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus.

COMMUNITY BROADCASTERS PROTECTION ACT OF 1998

Mr. FORD. Mr. President, the 105th Congress is likely to adjourn without enacting S. 1427, the Community Broadcasters Protection Act of 1998. Even so, I want to provide my colleagues a status report on the bill and advise them of the prospects for passage next year.

The principal purpose of S. 1427 is to provide permanent "Class A licenses" for low-power broadcasters. Currently these broadcasters have secondary status, which means that they can be bumped from their place on the spectrum by a full-power station. Without permanent status, these broadcasters have a hard time obtaining long-term capital.

After introducing this legislation last year, I worked with the staff of the Federal Communications Committee to refine the bill. In pursuing this matter, I have sought to provide a degree of certainty for low power broadcasters without creating any unintended consequences for other users of the spectrum. The result, which was reported from the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation on October 1, has achieved that goal.

The core mission of low power broadcasters is to provide programming for local communities that are not served by full power stations. These underserved communities may be in rural areas or in large metropolitan areas. In my state, we have a low-power station that provides programming that is geared to the interests of rural Kentuckians. However, in Washington, D.C., low power broadcasters provide Spanish language programming to

meet the needs of the Hispanic population in this area.

The FCC has recognized the unique role that community broadcasters play in providing programming to underserved audiences. Earlier this year, when I asked Chairman Kennard for his comments on the legislation, he responded favorably. Chairman Kennard said, "Having reviewed the legislation, I have no major concerns with the bill."

Mr. President, I would like to thank Senator MCCAIN, the chairman of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, Senator HOLLINGS, the ranking Democrat on the committee, and my other colleagues on the committee for their support of this legislation. As of today, 13 members of the Commerce Committee have joined as cosponsors. Also I want to express my appreciation to Senator BURNS, the chairman of the Communications Subcommittee. Senator BURNS has cosponsored S. 1427, and he has advised that he will introduce this legislation when the 106th Congress convenes next year. I thank my colleague for his continued interest in and support for community broadcasters. I am very pleased to leave this legislation in the capable hands of the Senator from Montana.

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Kentucky for his remarks and want to confirm that I plan to introduce this legislation next year. Also, I want to congratulate Senator FORD on his efforts on this legislation. Due to his persistence, much of the preliminary work on this bill has been done. While we will miss his presence on the Commerce Committee next year, we will continue to benefit from his work as a member of this body.

Mr. FORD. Again, I thank the Senator from Montana and wish him luck in this effort next year. The community broadcasters of the nation have earned a permanent place on the broadcast spectrum.

THE SENATE SAYS GOODBYE TO SENATOR DIRK KEMPTHORNE

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, when one speaks of the State of Idaho, we think of her glorious and rugged landscape, her fertile valleys, her waters ideal for fishing, her world-class ski resorts, her national parks and forests, with land fit for hiking, or biking, and, of course, her reputation as the potato capital of the world. Following the end of the 105th Congress, I daresay that our associations to the State of Idaho will also include the name of DIRK KEMPTHORNE, the state's junior Senator and one of this body's most respected Members. Although our friend from the west is leaving the Senate after only one six-year term, I, for one, will remember him fondly for years to come.

Senator KEMPTHORNE and I formerly served together as Chairman and Ranking Member, respectively, of the Personnel Subcommittee of the Armed Services Committee. We worked to-

gether to introduce legislation requiring the study of gender integrated training in the military. That association has been pleasant, and, I believe, productive. To be sure, I have not always agreed with his policy proposals, or he with mine. On many issues, including the balanced budget constitutional amendment and the unfunded mandates legislation, we have held opposing views.

Throughout the lengthy debate on the unfunded mandates bill in early 1995, the Senator was conscientious, thorough, and fair. His grace and courtesy in managing that bill were impressive, particularly for someone so new to the Senate. And, as we all know, his efforts paid off after deliberate consideration and compromise. Moreover, with passage of the unfunded mandates bill, Senator KEMPTHORNE holds the honor of being the most junior member of the Senate since World War II to author, manage, and win passage of a bill numbered Senate Bill One.

When he leaves these hallowed halls, Senator KEMPTHORNE will return to his home state. Boise, of course, is familiar ground for Senator KEMPTHORNE, serving as that city's forty-third Mayor, from 1985 until 1992, when the people of Idaho elected him to his present seat in the Senate. Incidentally, he became so popular during his first term as Mayor that he faced no opposition in his bid for a second term! How many of our colleagues would like to be in that situation? How many of us would like to be so universally popular, and be held in such high respect by our constituents, that such popularity and respect would foreclose potential challengers?

I congratulate Senator KEMPTHORNE on his fine service here, and I wish him and his nice family happiness in future years.

DRUG PRICE COMPETITION AND PATENT TERM RESTORATION ACT

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, 14 years ago, when I served as Chairman of the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee, I teamed up with Representative HENRY WAXMAN, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Health and the Environment of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, to lead passage of the Drug Price Competition and Patent Term Restoration Act of 1984.

The bottom line of this law was to improve the health of the American people. The statute accomplishes this in two primary ways: First, it essentially created the market for more moderately priced generic drugs by allowing generic manufacturers to demonstrate their equivalence to pioneer products without duplicating all of the original safety and efficacy data. Relieved of this costly burden, generic drug firms can provide their products at competitive prices which are attractive to many consumers.

Second, pioneer drug firms became eligible for restoration of some of the patent term lost due to the extensive